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Governor O'Malley Announces Maryland Ranks in the Top 10 among Bicycle Friendly States

May 1st, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Kicking off National Bike Month, Governor Martin O'Malley today announced that Maryland is ranked among the Nation's Top 10 Bicycle Friendly States according to an annual evaluation done by the League of American Bicyclists. Maryland is ranked number 7 in the nation, up from number 11 last year, and number 2 among Mid-Atlantic and North East States. Thanks to the passage of the landmark Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013, Maryland will dedicate nearly \$210 million over the next six years (FY 2014 – FY 2019) to fund programs that support alternative transportation projects, including building bicycle lanes and trails.

"To build a modern transportation system that supports the needs of all Marylanders, we have to invest in alternative forms of travel like bicycling," said **Governor O'Malley**. "We are honored that the League of American Bicyclists recognizes Maryland as a leader in making bicycling a true transportation alternative. Beyond the health benefits, expanding cycling and walking opportunities are fundamental to our ongoing efforts to foster sustainable land-use, protect the environment, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and better connect our communities."

The Bicycle Friendly States (BFS) ranking is based on a number of key indicators, including infrastructure and funding that provide on-the-ground bicycle facilities; education programs that promote cycling; and passage and enforcement of bicycle-friendly laws that make it safe and comfortable for people of all ages to ride. The BFS program is more than an annual assessment. Throughout the year, League staff worked closely with state officials and advocacy leaders to help Maryland identify and implement the programs, policies and campaigns that will improve conditions for bicyclists.

"Thanks to the Governor's leadership and established partnerships with bicycle advocacy groups, we are investing in an interconnected bicycle network that safely connects people to where they want to go," said **Transportation Secretary James T. Smith, Jr.** "It's gratifying to be recognized for our ongoing efforts to make Maryland a safe, bicycle-friendly State."

In an effort to reduce traffic crashes and improve bicycle safety, the Maryland

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Department of Transportation (MDOT) partnered with the Maryland State Police to complete a police training video as a tool to reinforce traffic laws associated with bicyclists and motorists safely sharing roadways. MDOT also has partnered with local jurisdictions throughout Maryland to help fund Bikeshare programs, including Montgomery County, which launched their program last fall.

"We are encouraged to see Maryland move into the top 10 in the 2014 ranking," said **League President, Andy Clarke**. "The completion of the state's police training video, *The Law Enforcement Role in Bicycle Safety*, coupled with significant legislative and funding wins will help make bicycling safer and more comfortable for residents and visitors alike."

To expand cycling opportunities, Governor O'Malley launched the Cycle Maryland initiative in 2011 to promote cycling in Maryland and increase funding to expand bicycling opportunities. Maryland also offers numerous programs that provide grants to local governments and non-profit organization that support bicycling, including: Safe Routes to School, Transportation Alternatives, Federal Lands Access Program, Recreational Trails and Bikeways. This year, \$16 million in reimbursable grant funding was made available to local governments and organizations for projects that enhance walking, biking, pedestrian safety, recreational trails and federal lands access. Since announcing Maryland's Bikeways Program in 2011, Governor O'Malley has invested \$8.5 million in Bikeways Program grants to help fund 74 projects across Maryland.

[Click here](#) to see how Maryland ranked in the five evaluation categories. Learn more about the BFS program at www.bikeleague.org/content/states.

The Maryland Department of Transportation recently updated the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, which establishes a 20-year vision to support cycling and walking as modes of transportation in Maryland. Learn more at www.mdot.maryland.gov/BikeWalkPlan. For more information on Cycle Maryland efforts and great bicycling resources, please visit us on our website at www.cycle.maryland.gov, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cyclemaryland and follow us on Twitter [@CycleMaryland](https://twitter.com/CycleMaryland).

The League of American Bicyclists is leading the movement to create a Bicycle Friendly America for everyone. As leaders, our commitment to listen and learn, define standards and share best practices to engage diverse communities and build a powerful unified voice for change. For more information or to support the League, visit www.bikeleague.org.



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« [Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown Highlight Commonwealth Fund Report Showing Maryland's Health Care Progress](#)
[O'Malley-Brown Administration Announces Start of UMES Roundabout in Somerset County](#) »



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O'Malley-Brown Administration Announces Start of UMES Roundabout in Somerset County

May 2nd, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Delivering on their commitment last summer to invest nearly \$160 million in new transportation funding for traffic safety enhancements and quality of life improvements for Eastern Shore residents, Governor Martin O'Malley and Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown today announced the start of construction on a new roundabout at the gateway to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) in Princess Anne, Somerset County. The long-awaited \$2.9 million roundabout is the first Eastern Shore project funded by the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013 to move to construction.

"Today, we are delivering on our promise to invest in key transportation projects that will improve safety, relieve congestion and spur economic development in every corner of the State," said **Governor O'Malley**. "This project will enhance the safety of UMES employees, students and Princess Anne residents, while providing more work for a local Eastern Shore contractor and his employees."

The roundabout will replace the existing intersection of MD 675 (Somerset Avenue) and MD 822 (UMES Boulevard). Construction is getting underway now and is expected to be complete by the end of the year, weather permitting. The roundabout project includes new sidewalks and drainage improvements. Motorists will continue to have access along UMES Boulevard while the roundabout and related utility work are underway. The project will enhance the safety of pedestrian and motorists traveling to UMES, which has approximately 4,500 students.

"We passed the Transportation Act to create jobs today and expand opportunities for Maryland families in the future," said **Lt. Governor Brown**. "This new roundabout is one of many transportation projects across the State that now can move to construction thanks to the passage of this Act. Our Administration is committed to building a modern transportation network that will support our growing economy."

David A. Bramble, Inc. of Chestertown, Md. was awarded the contract by the Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration (SHA). Work will require single-lane closures on MD 675 and MD 822, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. SHA's contractor will use cones,

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barrels and flagging operations, as needed, to direct traffic. Construction will not occur during evenings, weekends or during the UMES Spring commencement exercises on May 16.

"This project permanently remedies years of pedestrian safety concerns, as well as traffic issues affecting the residents of Princess Anne and UMES students," said **Senator Jim Mathias**. "This UMES-Somerset Avenue roundabout project is a great example of how our citizens, towns, counties and state government achieve success by working together."

"This project brings together two issues very close to my heart – education and safety," said **Delegate Norman H. Conway**. "A good education is the key to building a strong community, but you need to get to school first to accomplish that. Thanks to the O'Malley-Brown Administration and the Transportation Investment Act, this project will provide students and teachers a safe route to school whether they are driving or walking to UMES."

Funding for this safety improvement was made possible with the passage of the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013. The passage of the Transportation Act enabled the Maryland Department of Transportation to add \$4.4 billion in new projects to create the largest six-year capital budget in Maryland history at \$15.6 billion. Last August, Governor O'Malley joined local officials in announcing nearly \$160 million in key transportation projects for the Eastern Shore, including funds to construct a new interchange at US 301/ MD 304, widen MD 404 from west of MD 309 to Cemetery Road and build a new MD 331 Dover Bridge.

"Our University of Maryland Eastern Shore community is delighted this project is underway, and we are extremely grateful to Governor O'Malley and the State for making funding for this roundabout possible," **UMES President Juliette Bell** said. "Improved access to our campus and the safety of our students, who walk along roads with no sidewalks, have been long standing concerns. We look forward to the completion of this project which will benefit UMES and our neighbors."

While SHA and its transportation partners work hard to maintain safe traffic mobility in work zones, each driver needs to actively modify his or her driving style to help prevent crashes. Stay alert and look for reduced speed limits, narrow driving lanes and highway workers. Slow down and don't follow too closely. *Safer Driving. Safer Work Zones. For Everyone!*



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[Bills to be signed on Monday, May 5, 2014](#) »



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Governor O'Malley, Presiding Officers Sign Legislation to Strengthen and Grow Maryland's Middle Class

May 5th, 2014

U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Tom Perez among bill ceremony attendees; Governor signing bills to increase Maryland's minimum wage, establish a school construction wage, and expand the earned income tax credit

Annapolis, MD – Together with Senate President Mike Miller and House Speaker Pro Tem Adrienne Jones, Governor O'Malley signed bills to expand opportunity and grow Maryland's economy. Today's signing [builds on the O'Malley-Brown Administration's efforts to strengthen and grow Maryland's middle class, and help lift people out of poverty](#). Labor Secretary Tom Perez joined advocates, business and elected leaders from across Maryland to celebrate the fact that Maryland raised the minimum wage.

The signing at the State House included the centerpiece of the Administration's legislative agenda for the 2014 General Assembly session: increasing Maryland's minimum wage to \$10.10. Raising the minimum wage will benefit hundreds of thousands of Marylanders who will receive an increase in their incomes. It will also help generate millions of dollars in new economic activity during the phase-in period and help stimulate the creation of more jobs as consumer demand grows.

"For the last eight years, the [O'Malley-Brown Administration's North Star](#) has been strengthening Maryland's middle class and helping to lift families out of poverty. That's why the Lt. Governor and I led the fight to raise the minimum wage," **said Governor O'Malley**. "Working together with members of the General Assembly and Maryland's congressional delegation, we brought people together and forged consensus to increase the minimum wage to \$10.10. This will boost the incomes of hundreds of thousands of hardworking Marylanders and inject millions of dollars into our State's economy."

"Raising the minimum wage is a critical part of ensuring that no matter where you live in our state, you have the opportunity to earn a family-supporting wage," **Lt. Governor Anthony Brown** commented. "With the signing of this legislation today, we're going to generate nearly half a billion dollars in increased economic activity for Maryland. We will strengthen our communities and help more Marylanders climb the

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ladder of opportunity towards the middle class.”

Maryland joins 21 states and the District of Columbia with minimum wage rates higher than the federal level of \$7.25 per hour. At \$10.10, Maryland, along with Connecticut, [will have the highest state minimum wage in the nation](#) upon full implementation of the increase. Labor Secretary Tom Perez attended the bill signing ceremony, offering praise for Maryland's efforts to expand opportunity, even as the State faced the worst national recession since the Great Depression.

“Raising the minimum wage is a win-win-win. It's good for workers, who no longer have to choose between buying a gallon of milk or a gallon of gas. It's good for employers — many of whom have told me they support raising the wage because it makes their workers more productive. And it's the good for the economy, because it puts more money in the pockets of workers, who spend it in their communities,” said **U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez**. “I'm proud of the leaders and policymakers in my home state for their ability to come together to forge a consensus and give Maryland workers a raise. I hope Congress will follow their lead.”

Governor O'Malley also signed a bill to expand the refundable earned income tax credit from 25 percent to 28 percent over the next four years. The bill follows up on the Administration-led expansion in 2007, and will put even more money in the pockets of Maryland workers and families.

Building on the Administration's efforts to ensure upward economic mobility, Governor O'Malley signed a bill setting a new prevailing wage for state-sponsored school construction projects in Maryland. The bill requires all school construction projects that cost over \$500,000 and receive funding of 25 percent or more from the State to pay workers the “prevailing wage”— a wage that reflects pay workers commonly receive in the project area.

Over the last eight years, and throughout the Great Recession, Maryland has undertaken a number of efforts to strengthen and grow the State's middle class. [In 2007, Governor O'Malley signed into law the nation's first living wage for State contracts](#). As part of the Administration's 2014 legislative agenda, Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown [expanded prekindergarten for up to 1,600 Maryland children](#) and through record investments, supported strategies to improve education in [Maryland's number-one-in-the-nation public schools](#).

To make college more affordable for more families, the Administration made strategic investments in Maryland's universities. In fact, Maryland has done more than any other state in the nation since [2007-08 to hold down the cost of college](#), according to College Board. And recognizing the importance of creating more family-sustaining jobs, Governor O'Malley signed the [Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act](#) into law, which is putting tens of thousands of Marylanders to work building roads, bridges, and transit projects in every corner of the State.



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Governor O'Malley Issues Executive Order to Study School Construction Funding in Maryland

May 6th, 2014

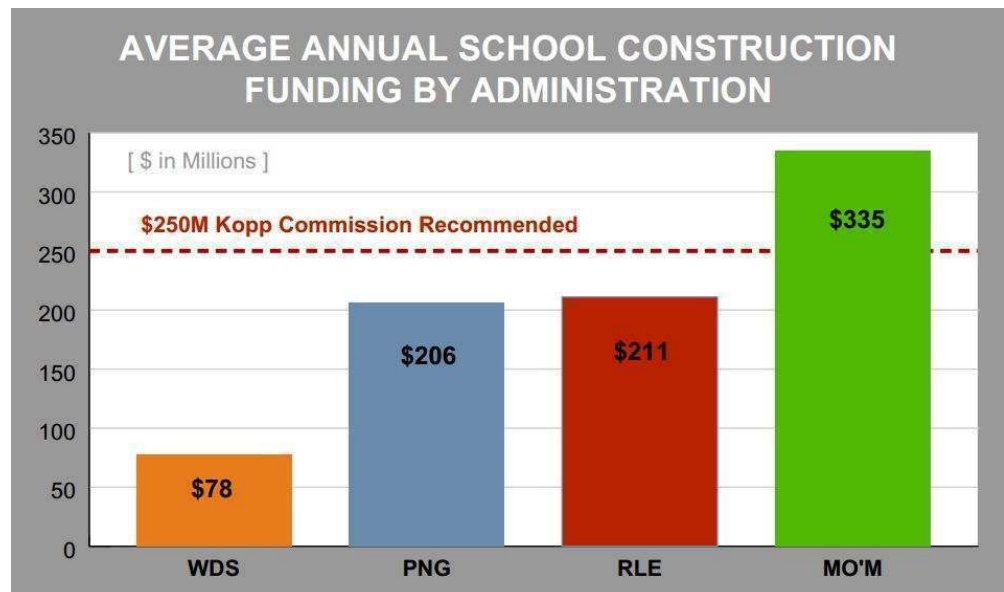
Annapolis, MD – Governor O'Malley today issued an executive order as part of an effort to build on the record investments Maryland has made in recent years to construct 21st century school facilities across Maryland.

The Governor signed the order directing the Interagency Committee on School Construction (IAC) to work with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) and conduct a study on school construction in Maryland. [Building on the record school construction funding](#) during the O'Malley-Brown Administration, the State will work to continue investment in school facilities and ensure that we replace temporary learning shacks with 21st century teaching and learning environments to better prepare Maryland students for the new innovation economy.

"We've made a commitment to Maryland families to make education a top priority and [improve student achievement by 25 percent by 2015](#). Even in the face of the worst national recession since the Great Depression, [we've made record investments for the last seven years](#) in our top-ranked public schools, along with \$2.7 billion in school construction, to make this goal a reality," **Governor O'Malley** said. "We've made tremendous progress, and our efforts are paying off, but there is still more work to do. This executive order will lay the groundwork for protecting our hard-earned progress so that every child, parent and educator will have the tools they need to win the 21st century, not just in Maryland, but across the globe."

"When we invest in school construction, we're building a brighter future for more of Maryland's young people and ensuring that every student in our state has the opportunity to learn and train in a safe, high quality facility," said **Lt. Governor Anthony Brown**. "While we've made record investments in Maryland's schools and built one of the best school systems in the country, our work is far from finished. Together, we're going to continue to invest in our children's futures, giving them the education and training today that they'll need to compete for the jobs of tomorrow."

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The order also directs the IAC to make recommendations — consistent with the goals of maintaining a structurally balanced state budget and sound debt management practices — on:

1. developing creative means, financing or otherwise, to increase funding for public school construction;
2. creating more reliable revenue streams that could include leveraging funds by counties to meet public school construction needs;
3. the use of lease payments or other alternative financing methods; and
4. local funding for public school construction, county tax capacity, and county tax effort.

During a recent visit to Maryland, [Moody's chief economist Mark Zandi](#) cited investments in education and infrastructure as key components for building a strong business climate. Maryland is already investing an additional \$4.4 billion over the next 6 years on top of what was already planned) — and creating more than 57,000 jobs — to build roads, bridges and transit projects as a result of the 2013 [Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act](#).

The study in this executive order will help ensure that we responsibly increase our investment in school construction as well. This will help stimulate business growth, boost Maryland's economy, and develop our students' ability to compete for good jobs in the global, high-technology economy.

Specifically, the order requires the development of a robust school construction program that will further State policies on high performance building design, the revitalization and stabilization of existing communities, resilience in the face of emergency events, as well as Minority Business Enterprise participation. The study will also include efforts to pursue a path forward by looking at the best options for meeting the financial demands of public school construction.

The order also directs lead agencies to solicit input from the State Treasurer's Office, county boards of education, and county governments. The order calls for the

final report to be delivered to the Governor on or before September 1, 2015.

After five years of number-one-in-the nation rankings, the [O'Malley-Brown Administration's FY 15 budget](#) included over \$6 billion in new investments in education and an additional \$275 million in school construction. The Governor recently signed the [Administration's 2014 pre-k education legislation](#) into law, expanding options for 1600 additional pre-schoolers across Maryland through a grant program and paving the way for further statewide expansion in coming years. According to College Board, Maryland not only [has the lowest college tuition in the nation](#), students in Maryland also [rank #1 in AP success](#).

The full executive order is attached: [EO 01.01.2014.06.pdf](#)



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Governor O'Malley Signs Bills to Prepare for Impacts of Climate Change and Extreme Weather

May 6th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley yesterday signed into law two pieces of legislation that will help the State prepare for the impacts of climate change and extreme weather in Maryland. The first, the Bay Acidification Bill, will create a Task Force to evaluate and address the effects of changing chemistry in the Chesapeake Bay and other Maryland waterways. The second, the CoastSmart Bill, will ensure the State follows standards to make safe and fiscally-wise investments when building or updating State agency structures located in vulnerable coastal areas.

"As severe weather events grow in size and impact, and our Bay's resources become threatened, the costs of inaction to our economy, society and environment will only grow exponentially," said **Governor O'Malley**. "This legislation helps us to get out in front of these very real, very important climate issues, and to secure the health, safety and future of our State and its citizens."

Underscoring the critical importance of preparing for these impacts, the [Third National Climate Assessment](#), released today by the Obama Administration, confirmed that global warming is contributing to the intensity, frequency and duration of extreme weather events, including "superstorms" such as Hurricane Sandy, extreme precipitation events, heat waves, and coastal flooding due to heightened sea level rise and storm surge.

The **Bay Acidification Bill** (House Bill 118) will allow for the State to devise a team, or Task Force, of State leaders, and water quality, fishery and climate experts, to address how changing Bay chemistry negatively impacts Maryland's coast and shellfish industry. The Task Force will study and assess water quality in Maryland's Chesapeake and coastal bays, and review ocean acidification studies and findings from other states. The group will then present to policymakers recommendations for monitoring and addressing acidification, and its effects on Maryland's commercial fishery and aquaculture industry by January 1, 2015.

The Task Force will include DNR Secretary Joe Gill and MDE Secretary Bob Summers, or their designees along with representatives from the State's aquaculture industry, the Maryland Watermen's Association, the National Aquarium in Baltimore, the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, and the

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Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

The **Coast Smart Council Bill** (House Bill 615) directs that all new and reconstructed State buildings be planned and built to avoid or minimize future flood damage, and creates the Coast Smart Council to oversee the state infrastructure projects. The law will ensure that the State makes safe and fiscally wise capital investments in the future by following siting and design standards for new and rebuilt State agency structures located in vulnerable areas. The bill does not affect schools, roads or local government projects, only structures built by State agencies.

Governor O'Malley is currently serving as a member of President Obama's Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, charged with advising the President on how federal agencies can best help states and communities understand, prepare for, and reduce the impacts of climate change. Under Governor O'Malley's leadership, Maryland has engaged in nation-leading efforts in both addressing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing the State and its communities for the impacts of climate change. Governor O'Malley's leadership in efforts and programs such as the [Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan](#), the [Climate Change and Coast Smart Construction Executive Order](#), [Marylanders Plant Trees](#), [landmark no-net loss of forest legislation](#); [CoastSmart](#) Communities earned him the League of Conservation Voters [Climate Change Vision Award](#) last year.



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Governor O'Malley, Presiding Officers Sign Legislation to Improve Air Quality, Save Consumers Money and Support Local Green Jobs

May 7th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Providing financial incentives to expand the purchase of plug-in electric vehicles and recharging stations as a means to improve air quality, save consumers money and support local green jobs, Governor Martin O'Malley, Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., and House Speaker Pro Tem Adrienne Jones on Monday signed the Electric Vehicles and Recharging Equipment-Rebates and Tax Credits bill (HB 1345 / SB 908). The legislation extends a tax credit on the purchase of plug-in electric vehicles for three years, increases the value of the tax credit provided to most vehicles and enhances the incentive on the purchase and installation of electric vehicle recharging station equipment.

"I applaud my colleagues in the General Assembly for working closely with us to pass this bill that will improve air quality, save hard-working Maryland consumers money and support green jobs here in Maryland," said **Governor Martin O'Malley**. "A key component of our strategic efforts to reduce Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2020 is to make owning an electric vehicle more convenient and economical, which this legislation accomplishes."

"Making it easier to own and operate an electric vehicle is an important part of building a healthy and sustainable environment for Maryland," said **Lt. Governor Anthony Brown**. "When we work together with advocates, businesses, and legislative leaders, we can protect our environment while also creating jobs for Maryland's workers."

The legislation will allow the State to continue to offer a tax credit on the purchase of plug-in electric vehicles through June 2017 and, in most cases, increases the value of the tax credit by changing the calculation based on a vehicle's battery size. Once the legislation takes effect July 1, 2014, the incentive, up to a maximum of \$3,000, will be based on \$125 times the number of kilowatt-hours battery capacity. For example, under the current available tax credit that is set to expire this June, Marylanders who purchase a Chevrolet Volt are eligible to receive a \$1,000 tax credit. After July 1, the tax credit doubles to approximately \$2,000 for Marylanders who purchase the Volt. Maryland has committed \$1.8 million per fiscal year

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through June 30, 2017, for this tax credit.

"General Motors applauds Governor O'Malley's leadership to provide incentives that help advance environmentally friendly technologies gain a foothold among consumers. GM and, in particular, our employees at our Baltimore Operations Plant believe that doing right for the environment is good for both business and jobs," said **Michael Robinson, General Motors' Vice President, Sustainability and Global Regulatory Affairs**. GM employees at their Baltimore plant make the electric drive motor and drive unit for the Spark EV plug-in electric vehicle, which is currently sold in Oregon and California.

The legislation also repeals the existing electric vehicle recharging income tax credit and replaces it with an enhanced rebate program that has been expanded to include local and State government. The rebate program, which will be administered by the Maryland Energy Administration and also goes into effect on July 1, 2014, will offer more money to individuals, businesses and local and State government for the purchase and installation of recharging stations for plug-in electric vehicles.

Maryland has committed \$600,000 per fiscal year through June 30, 2017, for this rebate program. The cost-saving breakdown for the rebate program includes the following:

- Residential customers: up to 50 percent of costs not to exceed \$900;
- Commercial entities: up to 50 percent of costs not to exceed \$5,000;
- Local and State Government: up to 50 percent of costs not to exceed \$5,000; and
- Retail Service Stations: up to 50 percent of costs not to exceed \$7,500.

"Maryland continues as a national leader in harnessing the innovation that will move us into the new economy," said **Abigail Ross Hopper, Director of the Maryland Energy Administration**. "Thanks to Governor O'Malley and the Maryland legislature, we continue to make vital investments in advancing electric transportation and infrastructure, which promotes energy independence, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and saves consumers' money."

The incentives, which are subject to available funding, were strongly supported by Maryland's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council (EVIC). The EVIC is made up of automobile manufacturers, dealers, charging station equipment manufacturers, utility companies, electrical workers, State and local government and environmental and energy experts.

"The EVIC strongly supported the passage of this legislation to provide the incentives and infrastructure necessary to promote more widespread use of electric vehicles," said **Deputy Transportation Secretary and EVIC Chair Wilson H. Parran**. "We commend the leadership of Governor O'Malley and members of the General Assembly for their ongoing efforts to fight for cleaner air, greener jobs and more cash in the pockets of consumers."

There are great economic advantages to electric vehicles. Electricity is the most widely available source of power and typically costs about two-thirds less than gasoline on a per-mile basis. By 2025, the average zero-emission vehicle driver will save nearly \$6,000 in fueling costs over the life of the car.

"Today's bill signing is another step forward in our efforts to expand electric vehicle ownership in Maryland," **Maryland Department of the Environment Deputy Secretary Kathy Kinsey** said. "Providing financial incentives for the purchase of electric vehicles and charging stations is among the most effective measures we can take to expand market penetration."



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Governors Martin O'Malley and Jack Markell Issue Joint Letters of Concern on Potential Acquisition of Astrazeneca

May 8th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD — Governors Martin O'Malley (MD) and Jack Markell (DE) sent a letter today to Ian Read, chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Pfizer, Inc., expressing deep concerns about the potential acquisition of AstraZeneca PLC. The letter highlights the potentially significant impact on good, family-sustaining jobs in both Maryland and Delaware, and expresses concern about the company's open interest in gaining access to offshore funds and "tax-efficient" operations.

AstraZeneca employs approximately 3,100 people in Maryland, and approximately 2,600 people in Delaware, prompting the two governors to seek answers about the company's potential future in the two states.

The two governors also sent letters expressing concern to several federal executive branch officials, including Attorney General Eric Holder, Secretary of State John Kerry, Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, FDA Commissioner Margaret A. Hamburg, and SEC Chair Mary Jo White, as well as to a number of members of Congress — including Speaker of the House John Boehner, Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, several congressional committees, Chairs Representative Kevin Brady and Senator Amy Klobuchar of the U.S. Joint Economic Committee, and members of both the Maryland and Delaware Congressional delegations.

The governors also highlighted Pfizer's assurances to British Prime Minister David Cameron on job retention, potential relocation, as well as employment guarantees for workers in the United Kingdom, and noted that Pfizer has yet to provide any commitment to Maryland or Delaware.

The letter requests responses from Pfizer regarding the potential impact on thousands of residents in both states, as well as a number of other issues, including: the potential number of jobs to be eliminated upon acquisition; commitments Pfizer is prepared to make to current AstraZeneca employees; future interest in investments in R&D and maintenance of innovation efforts; and answers to questions about potential redistribution of assets.

In order to preserve and protect American jobs and the future of families affected in

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the two states, both governors indicated that they intend to continue to pursue their concerns with the White House, members of the Obama Administration, and the U.S. Congress.

The full text of the letter to Pfizer is attached: [Letter to Pfizer – MD-DE 5 8 14.pdf](#)



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[Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown Announce Maryland Traffic Fatalities Drop to 52-Year Low](#) »

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Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown Announce Maryland Traffic Fatalities Drop to 52-Year Low

May 9th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley and Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown today announced the number of traffic fatalities on Maryland roadways in 2013 was the lowest in more than five decades. The 2013 preliminary figure of 466 traffic fatalities in Maryland was the lowest since 1961 when 461 highway deaths were reported. The current 2013 figure is a decrease from the 2012 figure of 511.

"From laws to combat distracted driving, like Jake's Law, to our efforts to pass life-saving seat belt legislation, our Administration has aggressively worked to lower the senseless and preventable loss of life on our roadways," said **Governor O'Malley**. "While these lower numbers indicate we've made progress, we must continue to work together to enhance traffic safety for Maryland motorists."

Thanks to the collaborative work with Federal, State and local partners, and with strong support from members of our General Assembly, Maryland has implemented comprehensive and aggressive initiatives to enhance highway safety. To combat distracted driving, Maryland passed Jake's Law this year, a bill that elevated the penalty for texting while driving to a criminal offense. Last year, Maryland passed a new seat belt law for all seated positions in a vehicle, made it a primary offense to talk on handheld cell phones while driving and increased the penalties for texting while driving.

"Maryland law enforcement and highway safety partners are actively working toward a goal of zero deaths on our roadways," said **Lt. Governor Brown**. "We are encouraged by the drop in traffic-related fatalities, but there is still work to be done and we remain committed to working together to make Maryland roads safer for all residents and travelers."

Representing the four "E's" of highway safety: Engineering, Education, Enforcement and Emergency Responders, State and local partners convened to create a roadmap to reduce crashes over the next five years. The State's plan to reduce roadway fatalities and injuries, known as the Strategic Highway Safety Plan, addresses six major areas of traffic safety: Aggressive Driving Prevention, Distracted Driving Prevention, Highway Infrastructure, Occupant Protection and Pedestrian Safety. Traffic crashes are one of the leading causes of death through

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age 44 and represent a leading cause of death throughout a person's life.

"With 56 billion miles traveled each year on Maryland roadways, ensuring the safety of the motoring public is a major undertaking," said **Transportation Secretary James T. Smith, Jr.** "The O'Malley-Brown Administration has made highway safety a top priority, and motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists must do their part to stay alert and follow the rules of the road."

"Highway safety is one of the most important issues, we, as law enforcement, face on a daily basis," said **Colonel Marcus L. Brown, Superintendent of the Maryland State Police.** "Our goal is to continue to reduce the number of fatalities and serious injuries due to motor vehicle crashes by aiming enforcement efforts at distracted, aggressive and impaired drivers."

Please click the link to view a chart of statewide traffic fatalities from 2004 to 2013: [MarylandFatalities_2004-2013v2.pdf](#)



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Governor O'Malley Establishes Task Force to Ensure Retirement Security for All Marylanders

May 12th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Because of the critical role retirement security plays in building a strong middle class, Governor O'Malley today established the Governor's Task Force to Ensure Retirement Security for All Marylanders. The Task Force will examine how Maryland can improve retirement security for private-sector employees, and it will recommend concrete steps that the State can take to ensure the opportunity for a secure retirement for every private-sector employee in Maryland.

"I understand that a lot of people across Maryland feel anxious about their retirement, and we are taking action to help," said **Governor Martin O'Malley**. "Strengthening and growing the middle class is the central focus of our work, and ensuring the financial security of Maryland workers is a key part of that equation."

The current shortfall in retirement savings for American households is \$6.6 trillion and over one-half of all Americans are at risk of outliving their retirement savings. Only 49 percent of private-sector workers participate in a retirement plan, and only 16 percent participate in a defined benefit plan. In addition, 36 percent of private-sector workers do not have access to any employer-sponsored retirement plan, leaving them without a critical source of retirement income. These shortfalls in retirement savings pose a significant threat to Maryland's fiscal stability and economic growth, as individuals with stable and secure retirements are less dependent on government assistance and money to flow into the State's economy.

"Helping Marylanders retire and remain in Maryland is an important part of building a stronger future for our state," said **Lt. Governor Anthony Brown**. "Through this effort, we're going to ensure financial security for more members of our Middle Class."

Governor O'Malley also announced that former Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend will chair the Task Force. In addition to being the former Lieutenant Governor of Maryland, Ms. Kennedy Townsend is also the managing director at Rock Creek Group, and the founder of the Center for Retirement Initiatives at Georgetown University.

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"Governor O'Malley asked me to head up a diverse group of business, labor, retiree, and other stakeholders so that we can safeguard Marylanders' economic security by finding innovative solutions to help Marylanders prepare for a secure retirement," said **Kathleen Kennedy Townsend**. "I look forward to working with the Task Force and helping address this issue which is extremely important for Maryland families."

The Task Force will meet this year to conduct a comprehensive examination of ideas that the State could implement through legislation, regulation, or other methods to ensure that private-sector employees in Maryland have the opportunity to enjoy a secure retirement. It will also review the approaches of other states and countries that offer state-sponsored retirement savings plans for private-sector employees and review desirable plan design features. Following the review, the Task Force will develop and issue recommendations, including specific steps addressing how such policies would be implemented.

The Task Force consists of members from the House of Delegates, Senate, Governor's Cabinet, the State Treasurer, labor unions, the financial service industry, the small business community, and the retiree community. The Task Force will issue a report by December 4, 2014, and will terminate on February 15, 2015, unless the Governor declares an extension.

The full executive order is attached: [EO 01.01.2014.07.pdf](#)



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Governor O'Malley Signs Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act, Fairness for All Marylanders Act

May 15th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor O'Malley joined the presiding officers, House Speaker Michael Busch and Senate President Miller, today to sign the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2014 (BRFA) in support of the [FY15 budget](#), a spending plan that includes record support for education and jobs-focused initiatives for Maryland. The Governor also signed legislation expanding protections for transgender individuals and the expansion of the State's designated wildlands.

"Working with members of the General Assembly, our Administration has once again put together a balanced budget that invests in education and jobs in order to grow the ranks of an upwardly-mobile, increasingly diverse middle class," said **Governor O'Malley**. "We also took another important step to protect the dignity and equal rights of all Marylanders and preserved pristine wildlands across our State — these efforts will ensure that we continue to make critical progress toward a better shared future for our State."

"Today, with the signing of the Fairness for All Marylanders Act, we're taking a critical step forward in protecting all Marylanders from discrimination," said **Lt. Governor Anthony Brown**. "This is important legislation at a time when more than half of transgender residents in our state have reported harassment in their community. I'd like to thank and congratulate all of the lawmakers, advocates, and community leaders who made this legislation possible, and fought to ensure that all Marylanders are treated and protected equally under the law."

The FY15 budget cuts \$760 million and includes no tax or fee increases. The enactment of the budget brings the Administration's total spending cuts to \$9.4 billion, the most in modern Maryland history. Maryland is one of only 7 states to maintain a AAA bond rating from all three ratings agencies throughout the global recession.

The FY15 budget contains \$7.4 million for the [Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund \(MEDAAF\)](#), the State's primary business development and job creation program. The administration will also continue to fund important tax credits for Maryland businesses including: a 20 percent increase in the [Biotech Tax Credit](#); a 12 percent increase in [R&D Tax Credit](#); and a 33 percent

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increase in the [Cybersecurity Tax Credit](#). And with a \$4.1 billion investment, the Capital Budget supports 48,000 jobs and contains \$1.5 billion for State facilities and Capital programs, along with \$2.6 billion in transportation investments.

In addition to the budget, Governor O'Malley signed a proposal to expand the [The Maryland Wildlands Preservation System](#), another piece of the Administration's 2014 legislative package, into law. Known as the Wildlands bill, the proposal will promote and support a stronger, more sustainable future for Maryland through the designation of new wildland areas on state lands including State Parks, State Forests and Wildlife Management Areas.

The Governor also signed the Fairness for All Marylanders Act of 2014, which provides stronger protections in public accommodations, labor and employment, and housing. This builds on the [Administration's long record of advocacy for equal protection under the law](#). In 2012, [Maryland became the 8th state in the nation to enact marriage equality](#). The O'Malley-Brown Administration also extended state benefits to same-sex partners and protected property rights and hospital visitation rights for same-sex couples in 2009. As mayor of Baltimore, Governor O'Malley signed similar anti-discrimination legislation for city employees.

"We are proud to have worked with the O'Malley-Brown Administration on passing The Fairness for All Marylanders Act," said **Carrie Evans, executive director of Equality Maryland**. "We especially want to thank the Lt. Governor for testifying before the House Committee this session, and the Governor for addressing our rally. Their efforts were effective and helped continue the momentum for passing the bill."

This year's budget continues the Administration's record investments in education [with nearly \\$6.1 billion allocated for K-12 education](#), including \$6.9 million to expand Maryland Meals for Achievement, one of the State's leading programs in the Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland, to an additional 40,000 students; [\\$4.3 million to expand Pre-Kindergarten to 1,600 more children](#); \$3.5 million for the Digital Learning Innovation Fund to assist local school systems in accelerating conversion to digital learning environment; and \$1.4 million for the Early College Innovation Fund to support creating and expanding early college access programs that provide accelerated pathways for students.

The FY15 budget includes \$275 million in school construction investments, bringing the Administration's total school construction investments to \$2.7 billion. [The Administration's average yearly investment of \\$335 million in school construction is the highest in Maryland history](#), 34 percent higher than the Kopp Commission's recommendation of \$250 million per year. According to College Board, the [State has done more since 2007-08 than any other state to hold down the rising cost of tuition](#). and the FY15 budget contains \$1.4 billion for public colleges and universities, including additional funds to support the State's efforts to hold down tuition costs.

The budget also funds the [Employment Advancement Right Now \(EARN\) program at \\$4.5 million](#) for the second consecutive year. This training initiative prepares Maryland's workforce to succeed in key 21st century industries.



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Governor O'Malley Announces Decision to Protect Maryland's Renewable Energy Progress

May 16th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor O'Malley today announced that he vetoed HB 1168 – *Electricity – Certificate – Wind Turbines – Limitation*, in accordance with Article II, Sec. 17 of the Maryland constitution.

The Governor emphasized his commitment to Patuxent River Naval Air Station (Pax River) because of its critical importance to Maryland. "There are already safeguards in place to ensure that no renewable energy projects conflict with military facilities — those safeguards render this bill unnecessary," **Governor O'Malley** said.

In addition, the Governor noted that the Great Bay Wind Project helps alleviate the threat to Pax River caused by rising sea levels. The recent release of the Third National Climate Assessment highlights the costs that climate change is already imposing on Maryland and underscores the importance of human action and innovation to address the issue. Sitting on the Eastern Seaboard, Maryland is particularly vulnerable, as is Pax River, to the effects of climate change.

"Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by increasing our use of renewable energy will help tackle environmental challenges like carbon pollution and sea level rise," **Governor O'Malley** said.

The Governor also pointed out that the Great Bay Wind Project advances three of the [O'Malley-Brown Administration's 16 strategic goals](#): (1) [creating jobs](#); (2) [increasing Maryland's in-State renewable generation to 20% by 2022](#); and (3) [reducing Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2020](#).

Full text of the letter is attached: [HB 1168 Wind turbines.pdf](#)



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Governor O'Malley Joins Marylanders at the 139th Preakness Stakes

May 17th, 2014

BALTIMORE, MD – Governor O'Malley today joined Marylanders at Pimlico Race Course for the 139th Preakness Stakes to watch as Kentucky Derby winner 'California Chrome' races to win the second leg of the Triple Crown of Thoroughbred Racing. While touring the grounds, Governor O'Malley also highlighted Maryland's horse racing industry as a vibrant part of the State's economy.

"We're honored to be part of the great American tradition that is the Triple Crown and we're excited to once again host 'The Run for the Black-Eyed Susans' right here in Maryland," said **Governor Martin O'Malley**. "The horse racing industry is not only a part of our rich cultural heritage and history, but it is an important and valuable part of our State's economic agenda."



Maryland's horse industry is a thriving component of the State's economy, with assets totaling more than \$5.6 billion. It holds approximately 10 percent of State's land (587,000 acres), which helps to preserve farmland and green space across Maryland. The industry also has twice as many horses per square mile as Virginia, Texas, California, or Kentucky, and employs more than 28,000 people. There are more than 79,000 horses in Maryland valued at \$714 million. Each year, the

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Preakness Stakes has an economic impact between \$47 and \$65 million, which in turn supports 350 full-time equivalent jobs for Marylanders.

"The Preakness is a rich Maryland tradition, a day when families and friends in communities throughout our state come together for a day to spend time with one another," said **Lt. Governor Anthony Brown**. "Moreover, the horse industry plays a vital role in Maryland's economy, supporting jobs and bringing millions of dollars to our state."

The O'Malley-Brown Administration has taken critical steps to preserve and revitalize the horse racing industry in Maryland. In 2009, Governor O'Malley [introduced and signed emergency legislation](#) to give the State greater authority to keep the Preakness Stakes in Maryland. In 2010, the O'Malley-Brown Administration [negotiated the Preakness Covenant](#) to ensure that Baltimore is home to this historic race and Maryland will continue to realize the economic benefits of the annual event. Following the negotiation, [Governor O'Malley brokered a deal](#) in 2010 to preserve the 2011 racing calendar, helping to keep Maryland's treasured Preakness Stakes where it belongs.

These actions led to the development of a 10-year agreement between all of the stakeholders in the industry. The agreement became the cornerstone for racing both now and in the future, and provides economic stability for stakeholders, owners and workers to plan and invest in the future. The 10-year plan revitalized the State's breeding industry, which at one point had lost nearly 80 percent of stallions, mares and foals. The breeding initiative that was developed and put in place in September of 2013 resulted in a remarkable resurgence of breeding investment and activity and has already resulted in increased farms and jobs since its inception, with indications that the trend will continue in the future.

The rich history of the horse industry in Maryland goes back centuries throughout the State's agricultural and economic development. Annapolis hosted the first organized horse race in America, the Annapolis Subscription Plate, in 1743. In 1873, the first running of the Preakness Stakes took place in Maryland, beginning an annual tradition that continues today.



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Governor O'Malley Hosts Third Annual Governor's Conference on Human Trafficking

May 19th, 2014

BALTIMORE, MD – Governor O'Malley and U.S. Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein kicked off the [3rd Annual Governor's Conference on Human Trafficking](#) today in Baltimore to highlight the State's efforts to stamp out trafficking. Almost 500 court staffers, judges, law enforcement, along with other officials attended workshops staffed by dozens of experts in the field. The Conference is a partnership between the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP) and the [Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force](#) (MHTTF).

"From Nigeria to right here in Maryland, human trafficking imposes unimaginable horrors on its victims, many of them children. That's why we're working with a broad cross section of stakeholders to build on our efforts to search these predators out and bring them to justice," said **Governor O'Malley**. "Working together, [we've driven down violent crime to 30-year lows](#). And with better coordination, increased public awareness of this critical issue and tougher penalties for traffickers, we'll strengthen communities and better protect Maryland families from this despicable practice."

"As public officials, our greatest responsibility is ensuring the safety of our residents," said **Lt. Governor Anthony Brown**. "In Maryland, we're committed to taking action against human trafficking, a deplorable practice that is plaguing communities around the world."

"Human traffickers compel victims to work for little or no compensation, often using violence and threats and engaging in illegal activity such as prostitution," said **U.S. Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein**. "Through the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force, local, state and federal law enforcement partners are working with non-profit organizations to help human trafficking victims and prosecute the traffickers."

Maryland's response to human trafficking has developed dramatically over the past two years. In 2012, after a call to action by Governor O'Malley, the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), Department of Human Resources (DHR), Maryland State Police (MSP), and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) implemented targeted human trafficking policies, which included training, risk assessment tools, and data collection protocols.

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After the first year, these agencies assessed their individual responses to human trafficking and responded accordingly. The initial data flowing from the implemented policies reflected increased awareness and a consistent victim-centered approach. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) were added to the statewide strategic plan for combating human trafficking in 2013.

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) has tracked human trafficking activity in Maryland and in 2013 its hotline received 707 phone calls from people seeking information or help, 31 online tips and 24 emails. Approximately one-third of those calls were related to possible labor trafficking. Labor trafficking is often misunderstood and it presents unique challenges in identification and intervention. As a result MHTTF and state agencies have decided to target labor trafficking in Maryland.

Maryland continues to make progress ensuring the public's safety by [setting and surpassing goals](#) to build stronger communities. In 2012, Maryland surpassed [its goal](#) of driving down violence against women and children by 25 percent by the end of 2012. Since then, the O'Malley-Brown Administration set a new goal of driving down violence against women and children an additional 25 percent by the end of 2018.



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Governor O'Malley Announces Winners of State's InvestMaryland Challenge

May 19th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Joined tonight by hundreds of entrepreneurs and business leaders at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, Governor Martin O'Malley awarded \$100,000 each to four startup companies in the State's [InvestMaryland Challenge](#), a national business competition which offered nearly \$1 million in cash and in-kind awards as well as opportunities for startups to showcase themselves to potential investors. The grand prizes were funded by the State-run Maryland Venture Fund and the BioMaryland Center, part of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED).



The winner in the Life Sciences category was [Brain Sentry](#), a Bethesda-based company that has developed an innovative helmet-mounted sensor to help identify players of team sports who should be assessed for a concussion. Topping the IT (hardware/software) category was [ClickMedix](#), a Gaithersburg-based global mobile health social enterprise founded by faculty and students from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Carnegie Mellon University to increase capacity of physicians and health organizations to serve more patients. The General Industry category winner was New York, NY-based [Healthify](#), a startup out of Johns Hopkins University that is helping health plans and at-risk providers address the social needs of their population. The winner of the new Cybersecurity category was [Luminal](#),

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which recently moved to Frederick from West Virginia and simplifies and secures cloud computing systems. The Life Sciences, Cybersecurity and Information Technology categories were open only to Maryland companies. The General category was open to all U.S. companies, with the winner required to open a place of business in Maryland and spend at least 51 percent of the funding in the State. To see a list of all of tonight's winners, click [here](#).

"Congratulations to the winners of the InvestMaryland Challenge, all the companies that participated and the members of Maryland's vibrant and growing entrepreneurial community that have made the InvestMaryland Challenge such a success," Governor O'Malley said. "Maryland is more committed than ever to supporting the entrepreneurs and innovators who develop cutting-edge technologies, start new companies and create family-sustaining jobs that will employ citizens of our State for generations to come. I look forward to watching all of the Challenge companies grow and thrive here in Maryland."

"We are proud to award these top prizes to four deserving companies and are very thankful to the sponsors who donated the additional awards and the judges who offered invaluable feedback and advice to all the companies," DBED Secretary Dominick Murray said. "The benefits of the Challenge do not end tonight. This competition helps build a pipeline of new investment opportunities for the State's Maryland Venture Fund and private investors, and forges new bonds across Maryland's entrepreneurial community, connecting companies to potential advisors, partners and customers."

Organized by DBED, the Challenge drew 260 entries from around the country, including 29 out-of-state companies from 11 state and Washington, D.C. The field was narrowed over three successive rounds of judging by a panel of more than 80 investors, successful entrepreneurs, business executives and other members of the Maryland startup community.

The first InvestMaryland Challenge awarded \$425,000 in prizes. The category winners were RedOwl Analytics (Baltimore, IT), GrayBug (Baltimore, Life Sciences), and i-Lighting (North East, General Industry). In addition to fueling entrepreneurship, the Challenge helps build a pipeline of innovative companies for the State's InvestMaryland program, the largest venture capital investment initiative in Maryland's history. Created by Governor O'Malley and passed by Maryland's General Assembly in 2011, the program raised \$84 million to support small, high-tech startups. Two-thirds of the funding – \$56 million – is being managed by carefully screened private venture firms that will invest the funds and, if successful, return 100% of the principal and 80% of the profits to the State's general fund. The remaining third of the InvestMaryland capital is largely allocated to direct investments by the Maryland Venture Fund.

The Maryland Venture Fund is a regionally recognized leader in seed and early-stage investing and a national model for state-supported investment programs. With nearly two decades of experience and numerous successful investments, MVF invests in highly innovative technology companies across the full range of industry sectors including software, communications, cybersecurity and life sciences companies in the areas of healthcare IT, medical devices and diagnostics.

About DBED:

The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development stimulates private investment and creates jobs by attracting new businesses, encouraging the expansion and retention of existing companies, and providing workforce training and financial assistance to Maryland companies. The Department promotes the State's many economic advantages and markets local products and services at home and abroad to spur economic development and international investment, trade and tourism. Because they are major economic generators, the Department also supports the Arts, film production, sports and other special events. For more information, visit www.choosemaryland.org.



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Governor O'Malley Appoints Judges in Dorchester, Garrett and Howard Counties

May 22nd, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor O'Malley announced today the appointments of **Melvin James Jews** to the District Court for Dorchester County, **Stephan Martin Moylan** to the District Court for Garrett County, and **Wayne Alan Brooks** to the District Court for Howard County.

"I am honored to appoint these individuals to seats on the District Court of Maryland," said **Governor O'Malley**. "Each of these attorneys has a strong commitment to public service and exemplifies the highest standards in the legal profession." The newly appointed judges were recommended to Governor O'Malley by local trial court judicial nominating commissions.

For the **District Court for Dorchester County**, Governor O'Malley has appointed **Melvin James Jews**. Mr. Jews has maintained a solo practice in Dorchester County since 2001, representing clients in both civil and criminal matters. Previously, he served as the Chief of Litigation for the Housing Authority of Baltimore City, a Senior Solicitor in the Baltimore City Law Department, an Assistant State's Attorney for Baltimore City, and a Staff Attorney for the Legal Aid Bureau.

Mr. Jews earned his law degree from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and his undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland, College Park.

For the **District Court for Garrett County**, Governor O'Malley has appointed **Stephan Martin Moylan**. For the past 12 years, Mr. Moylan has served as an Assistant Public Defender in Garrett County. Previously, he served as an Assistant Public Defender in Baltimore City, working in both the Felony and Misdemeanor Trial Divisions. Mr. Moylan is an active participant in several Garrett County community organizations. He received his law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law and his undergraduate degree from Loyola College.

For the **District Court for Howard County**, Governor O'Malley has appointed **Judge Wayne Alan Brooks**. Judge Brooks is an Administrative Law Judge and Deputy Director of Operations for Maryland's Office of Administrative Hearings, where he has served for the past 19 years. Judge Brooks began his legal career as a Captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, serving as

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both a prosecutor and trial defense counsel. Before his service as an Administrative Law Judge, he worked as an associate in several Howard County law firms and as an Assistant Public Defender in the Mental Health Division. Judge Brooks earned his law degree from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and his undergraduate degree from Howard University.



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Governor O'Malley Issues Statement on Passage of Water Resources Reform and Development Act

May 22nd, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor O'Malley today released the following statement in response to the final passage in the U.S. Senate of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, which will enable the Port of Baltimore to continue key dredging projects and environmental initiatives:

"I want to congratulate and thank our hard-working Maryland Congressional team for their efforts to pass the Water Resources Reform and Development Act. Thanks to the leadership of Team Maryland, this Act passed the House and Senate and will now be sent to President Obama for his signature. Two projects crucial to the Port of Baltimore and our efforts to protect jobs and the environment will now be able to move forward: the continued development and expansion of Poplar Island as well as future development of Mid-Chesapeake Bay Islands.

"This law is key to keeping the Port's channels properly and safely dredged, which will allow us to accommodate some of the largest vessels in the world and safeguard good-paying, family-supporting jobs here in Maryland. Along with supporting these jobs, this legislation strengthens Maryland's ongoing environmental protection efforts by continuing to fund and expand our nationally-recognized program to rebuild long-eroded islands and create wetlands that serve as wildlife sanctuaries. After decades of erosion, Poplar Island has been restored to its original capacity of 1,100 acres using dredged material. Today, many different species of wildlife and waterfowl inhabit Poplar Island.

"Thanks to Maryland's Congressional Delegation, today's good news will further strengthen Maryland's efforts to create jobs, expand economic opportunity, and protect our environment."

Editor's Note:

Business at the Port of Baltimore generates about 14,630 direct jobs, while about 108,000 jobs in Maryland are linked to port activities. The Port is responsible for \$3 billion in personal wages and salary and more than \$300 million in state and local taxes.



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Operation Hire: Maryland's 100 Day Veteran Hiring Challenge Begins

May 26th, 2014



ANNAPOLIS, MD – In keeping with the commitment to support veteran employment, Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown today announced the start of Operation Hire: Maryland's 100 Day Veteran Hiring Challenge, a statewide campaign encouraging employers to hire Maryland veterans. Operation Hire will complement the supportive services already in place for veterans who are seeking employment across the State.

"Veterans bring remarkable skill sets and qualities to our civilian work environment. They display fierce loyalties and commitment, a strong work ethic, excellent pr

oblem solving capabilities, and technical training," said **Governor Martin O'Malley**. "Supporting veteran employment is not only good for our veterans and their families; it is good for our communities and our businesses. Today, I challenge our state and local agencies, as well as private businesses, to participate in Operation Hire."

"While we owe them a debt we can never fully repay, Operation Hire will play a critical role in supporting the men and women who have given so much for our state and for our nation," said **Lt. Governor Brown**. "As we continue to grow our economy and create jobs faster than any other state in our region, we must remain

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committed to ensuring that our Veterans can use the skills they learned defending our country to compete for good, Middle Class jobs throughout our state.”

One of the O'Malley-Brown Administration's [16 Strategic Goals](#) is [full employment for veterans by the end of 2015](#). In alignment with this goal, state and local agencies, and private businesses are encouraged to participate in Operation Hire by incorporating or expanding upon established veteran friendly hiring initiatives.

Starting June 1, businesses and agencies can visit <http://veterans.maryland.gov/operation-hire-marylands-100-day-veteran-hiring-challenge/> for more information and to register as a participant in Operation Hire. Hiring toolkits and veteran employment resources will be available online and for 100 days, the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs will share participant information and track hiring. In the early fall, businesses and agencies who participate in Operation Hire will be recognized for their efforts.

“The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs is charged to serve our veteran community. We accomplish this mission by having the supports in place to help veterans successfully obtain civilian employment,” said **MDVA Secretary Edward Chow**. “Employers must also have the resources they need to sustain their veteran work force. I appeal to our state and local agency partners and the business community to participate in this worthy campaign.”

Operation Hire builds on the efforts of the O'Malley-Brown Administration to serve Maryland's veterans. Last year, the O'Malley-Brown Administration proposed and the General Assembly passed the Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013, which removes certain barriers to employment that service members often face when making the transition from military service to the civilian workforce. The Act also expedites the process for certain occupational and professional licensing for recently discharged veterans and spouses when a military family moves to Maryland.

To learn more and to register for Operation Hire, visit <http://veterans.maryland.gov/operation-hire-marylands-100-day-veteran-hiring-challenge/> or call Dana Hendrickson, MDVA at [410-260-3842](tel:410-260-3842). The hashtag for the program is: #MDOperationHire.



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Governor O'Malley Establishes Commission on Pretrial Reform

May 27th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Building on the O'Malley-Brown Administration's commitment to protecting the public's safety, Governor O'Malley today issued an executive order creating the Governor's Commission to Reform Maryland's Pretrial System (the "Commission").

"Working with community leaders and the brave men and women of law enforcement, we've driven down violent crime to 30-year lows" said **Governor O'Malley**. "We must build on this important progress by streamlining and modernizing our justice system to better serve and protect Maryland families. The Commission will foster the consensus we need to move comprehensive pretrial reform forward."

"We remain committed to building a justice system that's both strong and fair, and that starts with a responsive and effective pretrial system that meets constitutional requirements," said **Lt. Governor Brown**. "As we look to the future, the Commission on Pretrial Reform will play a critical role in our efforts to build a long-term, comprehensive plan that addresses this important issue and ensures justice for all Marylanders while keeping our communities safe."

In September 2013, the Maryland Court of Appeals issued a ruling in the *Richmond v. DeWolfe* case. A divided court stated that arrestees have the right to an attorney during an initial appearance before a District Court Commissioner.

The Commission will examine the pretrial justice system in Maryland, look at best practices from around the country, and assess the use of an objective risk assessment tool to inform pretrial release determinations. Its work is intended to ensure compliance with *Richmond*, and to advance a fair pretrial system. The Commission will help shape a system that detains dangerous individuals and releases those defendants who are expected to appear in court and pose minimal risk to public safety.

In 2012, the Commission to Study the Laws and Policies Relating to Representation of Indigent Criminal Defendants by the Office of the Public Defender recommended that the State implement a validated risk assessment tool and establish a statewide pretrial system in Maryland. The Commission created today builds on those recommendations, and moves the reform process forward with the launch of a State pilot risk assessment program.

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The Commission will issue recommendations for reform to the Governor by December 1, 2014. Among the objectives assigned by the Governor, the order directs the Commission to identify ways to reduce detainment times, advise the State's risk assessment pilot program in one or more counties, and develop and issue legislative recommendations.

In 2007, the Administration set a [goal](#) of driving down violent crime 20 percent by the end of 2012. Together with the hardworking men and women of Maryland's law enforcement, the State met this goal in 2011, and surpassed it again in 2012. Since then, the O'Malley-Brown Administration set a goal to [drive down violent crime by 20 percent by 2018](#) to protect Maryland families and strengthen communities in every corner of the State.

The full executive order is attached: [EO 01.01.2014.08 \(1\).pdf](#)



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Governor O'Malley Releases Statement on the Passing of American Author and Poet, Dr. Maya Angelou

May 28th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor O'Malley issued the following statement today, upon learning of the passing of legendary literary icon, Dr. Maya Angelou:

"Maya Angelou's poem, 'When Great Trees Fall,' ends this way: 'And when great souls die, / after a period peace blooms, / slowly and always / irregularly. Spaces fill / with a kind of / soothing electric vibration. / Our senses, restored, never / to be the same, whisper to us. / They existed. They existed. / We can be. Be and be / better. For they existed.'"

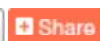
"The passing of Dr. Angelou is the death of a truly Great Soul. To appropriately honor her passing requires our gratitude for the divine poetry and prose she delivered into our world, and our simple striving, in the echoes of her electric whisper, to be better, kinder, and more loving."



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Eight State Alliance Releases Plan to Put 3.3 Million Zero Emission Vehicles on the Road

May 29th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD — Eight states on the East and West Coasts today released a collaborative action plan to develop the infrastructure, coordinated policies, codes and standards and a consumer market primed to put 3.3 million zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) on the road by 2025. The Multi-State ZEV Action Plan is the first promised milestone for the bi-coastal collaboration, an effort to pave the way for increasingly large numbers of the cleanest cars in the nation.

Collaboration is critical

The partner states are California, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island and Vermont. Together they account for more than one quarter of the nation's new car sales.

"This collaborative effort is an important step forward to ensure the success of our zero-emission vehicle programs. Transitioning our light duty transportation fleet to zero emission vehicles is essential if we are to achieve our long term air quality and climate goals," said **Governor Martin O'Malley**. "Implementation of the action plan will support the arrival of more than 3 million zero emission vehicles in our states by 2025 and serve as a roadmap for a healthier, more sustainable transportation sector on both coasts."

"This Action Plan lays out a framework to make it easier for Marylanders to own and operate the cleanest vehicles available today," said **Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown**. "We are committed to working with the private sector to build the necessary infrastructure and support the deployment of zero emission vehicles in a way that builds consumer-oriented, market-winning solutions that move this innovative market beyond early adopters."

The action plan builds on work already underway in [MOU signatory states](#) and provides for consistent, unified steps at a critical point in development of the ZEV market. The governors of the eight states began this latest collaboration with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on October 24, 2013. The ultimate goal is to reduce greenhouse gas and smog-causing emissions by transforming the transportation sector over the next 11 years. Since the MOU signing, state

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regulators, the auto industry and infrastructure developers and other stakeholders have shared information and best practices to help move this groundbreaking effort forward.

“The members of the multi-state ZEV Program Implementation Task Force deserve recognition for their dedication and commitment in crafting this Action Plan,” said **Arthur Marin, Executive Director of the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management**, which is a partner in the effort. “We also acknowledge the automobile manufacturer representatives and other stakeholders who provided key insights and input to this plan.”

ZEVs include plug-in hybrids, battery electric and hydrogen-powered fuel cell electric vehicles. To date, manufacturers have rolled out more than two dozen models in these categories and they have developed a solid foothold in the automobile market.

As of April 2014 there are nearly 172,000 nationwide. Sales have doubled over the past year alone, with than half of those sales occurring in the MOU signatory states.

Solid and achievable action

The eight-State ZEV Action Plan provides an overview of the current state of the market. It also provides an agenda to accelerate the development of that market.

At the heart of the plan are 11 key actions to be taken by all the partners and the elements needed to successfully complete those actions.

The key actions cover three main areas:

Build the market

- Promote the availability and effective marketing of ZEVs
- Encourage private fleets to acquire ZEVs
- Promote planning and investment in ZEV infrastructure
- Increase the number of ZEVs in government vehicle fleets

Provide consistent rules and tracking

- Remove barriers to charging station installation
- Provide clear and uniform signage
- Track and report progress toward the 3.3 million vehicle goal

Improve the experience

- Promote workplace charging
- Provide consumer incentives for the purchase of ZEVs
- Remove barriers to retail sale of electricity as vehicle fuel
- Promote access and compatibility for charging networks

The ZEV action plan also includes steps individual states may take, as well as examples of successful existing state programs to improve the experience of drivers and owners.

Environmental and economic health

Affordable, readily available ultra-clean vehicles are critical to reduce greenhouse

gas emissions and lessen the impact of climate change, since the transportation sector is one of the nation's major sources of greenhouse gases.

Creating a growing market for ZEVs also provides a range of economic benefits. Electricity is widely available and costs less than gasoline or diesel on a per-mile basis. Maintenance costs for a ZEV are also lower over the life of the vehicle. The push for clean vehicles has also brought investment in new business and jobs which will help put our economy on a more sustainable footing.

More information on Key Existing Maryland Electric Vehicle

Initiatives: <http://governor.maryland.gov/documents/MarylandElectricVehicleInitiatives.pdf>

The Multi-State ZEV Action Plan is available at: <http://governor.maryland.gov/documents/MultiStateZEVActionPlan.pdf>

The Eight-State Memorandum of Understanding: <http://www.governor.maryland.gov/documents/zevprogrammou.pdf>

Governor quotes:

"The multi-state ZEV group now has an action plan to guide us through development and deployment of zero emission vehicle infrastructure on both coasts," said **Governor Peter Shumlin**. "This plan is critical to meeting Vermont's greenhouse gas reduction goals and implementing our state energy plan. Moreover, building a robust market for these ultra clean and efficient vehicles, and developing recharging stations and other infrastructure that supports them, will make Vermont and our nation more prosperous by saving drivers money on transportation costs, encouraging economic growth, and reducing motor vehicle pollution impacts on public health and the environment."

"This plan is a triple 'win' for participating states because it brings energy, environmental, and economic benefits," said **Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy**. "Under the blueprint provided in this plan we will continue with our efforts to provide a convenient network of charging stations for Electric Vehicles (EVS), add EVs and fuel cell vehicles to the state's fleet, and build out the hydrogen infrastructure needed for fuel cell vehicles expected to be available for the 2015 model year."

"Today, we're putting a foot on the pedal to get more clean cars on the road," said **California Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.** "This is real action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

"This plan provides concrete steps states can take toward the common goal of reducing our dependence on foreign oil and protecting our environment," said **Governor Lincoln D. Chafee**. "Rhode Island will clearly benefit environmentally and economically from development of a successful market for zero emission vehicles and guaranteeing that our residents can use those vehicles throughout the Northeast."

"Today's plan builds on Massachusetts' nation-leading efforts to use renewable energy technology to reduce carbon emissions," said **Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick**. "By promoting the use of plug-in vehicles through the

Commonwealth's electric vehicle initiative and an array of consumer and fleet incentives, we are able to give motorists choices in the vehicles they drive and cleaner, less expensive fuel to power them.”

“Creating a strong and robust market for zero emission vehicles is critically important to the success of clean-energy technologies, and I am proud that New York is joining these other states to make that a reality,” **New York Governor Andrew Cuomo** said. “This action plan will help develop the infrastructure and coordinated policies we need in order to put more than three million zero emission vehicles on the road by 2025. Here in New York, we will be supporting that effort through the Charge NY initiative by installing 3,000 electric vehicle charging stations – vital to the growth of a completely wired Northeast Corridor – and I am hopeful that more States will join this collaborative effort and help pave the way for the clean transportation options of the future.”



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Senator Mikulski, Governor O'Malley Launch Maryland Cybersecurity Roundtable

May 29th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski and Governor Martin O'Malley today launched the Maryland Cybersecurity Roundtable. The Maryland Cybersecurity Roundtable is another step in Maryland officials' coordinated efforts to foster growth and create jobs by expanding the burgeoning cybersecurity industry in Maryland.

"Maryland is the epicenter for cybersecurity," **Senator Mikulski** said. "Our elite and indispensable Federal agencies, talented universities and colleges, and vibrant and growing private sector are working together to build a safer nation and a stronger economy with jobs that will never leave Maryland. This roundtable is a team effort to identify and solve the common challenges facing Maryland's cyber businesses and cyber warriors as they protect national security, trade secrets, and our personal identities. The goal is for Maryland to sell its cybersolutions not just around the beltway but also around the world."

Forming an industry-led cybersecurity roundtable was among the recommendations that the Federal Facilities Advisory Board (FFAB) called for in the strategic plan it released in February 2013. The FFAB's strategic plan focused on better leveraging the potential of federal government agencies and military installations to drive innovation and create jobs in Maryland.

"The Cyber Roundtable is yet another example of our efforts to lead the nation in cyber – and create long-term, family-sustaining jobs for Maryland's highly-skilled workforce," said **Governor O'Malley**. "We're bringing together military personnel, state agencies and other stakeholders to better harness opportunities to continue to grow Maryland's cyber industry, explore best practices to protect personal information, and lead the fight to keep America's virtual borders secure."

The Maryland Cybersecurity Roundtable provides the state's cyber sector with a forum for discussion of issues, concerns and opportunities. Organized as a non-profit entity, the roundtable is led by an executive committee:

- **Leonard A. Moodispaw**, President and CEO, KEYW
- **Jeffrey Wells**, Executive Director of Cyber Development, Maryland

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Department of Business & Economic Development

- **Kevin Kelly**, Vice President, COO and Officer, Van Scoyoc Associates; COO and Managing Partner, Van Scoyoc Kelly & Roberts PLLC; Chairman, Federal Facilities Advisory Board
- **Deborah A. Bonanni**, Senior Advisor, Intel Operations, Intelligent Decisions
- **Richard Schaeffer**, Founder, Riverbank Associates LLC
- **Darrell Durst**, Vice President of Cyber Solutions, Lockheed Martin Corporation
- **Belkis Leong-Hong**, Founder, President and CEO, Knowledge Advantage Inc.

"Maryland has become ground zero for cyber science and research as it relates to the defense of our Nation's critical infrastructure, intellectual property, and the networks that support our economy," said **Maryland Cybersecurity Roundtable President Len Moodispaw**. "Senator Mikulski and Governor O'Malley have a shared vision for the establishment of a single group to collaborate, coordinate, and support all of the efforts represented by the vast cyber resources of our state. Academia, industry, and government are all important players bringing vision and leadership to the challenges at hand. I am honored, proud, and pleased to lead the initial efforts to create the Maryland Cyber Roundtable."

In response to President Barack Obama's request to ensure the security of the nation's data, Governor O'Malley launched the [CyberMaryland](#) initiative in January 2010. Home to the National Security Agency, the U.S. Cyber Command, the National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence and other military and federal assets – as well as a vibrant community of innovative cybersecurity companies – Maryland now ranks second in the nation for cybersecurity jobs per capita (per 10,000 residents), according to a March 2014 report by Burning Glass Technologies. This year, Governor O'Malley and the General Assembly expanded the Cybersecurity Tax Credit to \$4 million, a 33 percent increase over last year.

Senator Mikulski and Governor O'Malley launched the new project today at The Hotel at Arundel Preserve in Hanover, Md. The event was attended by more than 175 people, including members of the new Maryland Cybersecurity roundtable; members of the FFAB; representatives of cybersecurity companies, military commands and federal facilities; and other CyberMaryland partners. The Senator and Governor were also joined by **Dr. Patrick Gallagher**, Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and **Debora Plunkett**, Director of the Information Assurance Directorate at the National Security Agency.



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